

Intermountain Ragtime By The Tribune Staff

A Study in Official Railroad Correspondence.

BY KENNETH C. KERR.

PROLOGUE.

ONCE upon a time when the general offices were buzzing with the routine of a busy afternoon and the typewriters clicking innumerable letters and telegrams to shop foremen and directors came a timid knock at the door.

"Vice-President and General Manager," called G. K. S., and there came a vision in feathers and lace looked as if she might have just stepped in from Fifth Avenue. She held a card in her hand on which was written:

Miss Geraldine Potter,
Denver.

Potter explained that she was to be engaged in Salt Lake with the company and was eager to travel the Pacific circuit and desired the company to furnish her with a special car, a diner and arrange for her trip.

"I see," said the suave G. K. S. "a moment, please." He took the card and attached it to a pin, a paper on which he wrote:

M. S. Traffic Manager.

He then attached and arranged, if possible, as per request, he will be notified.

Potter was courteously received in the office of the traffic manager, and she explained the nature of her trip. She was told that due attention would be given to the matter, which would be taken up at once, and she was notified.

So the little card, like a rolling snow, accumulated its store of efforts as the days rolled on.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

Salt Lake, April 11th, 1904.

O. E. 401.

Dear Sir:—

I will kindly note attached card of Geraldine Potter of Denver, who is to be engaged in Salt Lake with the company and is desiring a special twelve section Pullman car. Can you arrange to furnish one to be used on this trip. Yours truly,

D. E. B.
Salt Lake, April 12th, 1904.

O. E. 401.

Dear Sir:—

You arrange for a dining-car to be used for a tour of the Pacific circuit. Geraldine Potter, the noted actress, who has played before the crowned heads of Europe, will be making a trip over our O. & N. Southern Pacific branches. Also an actress, H. S. T. Pullman company to furnish standard sleeper, these cars to be exclusively by Miss Potter and any.

You arrange to carry this extra car on our Nos. 10 and 11, easily on Idaho division, as local do not make the desired connection.

E. D. B. will accompany train, and I transmit schedule and itinerary. I will furnish figures and advise if possible. Yours truly,

D. E. B.
Salt Lake, April 13th, 1904.

O. E. 401.

Dear Sir:—

We will furnish car for the Pacific circuit, station May 6. This car has twelve sections and smoker. Your Mr. H. E. D. can use the smoker berth or one of the upper berths. This is the only car available at this time. Yours truly,

D. E. B.
Salt Lake, April 14th, 1904.

O. E. 401.

Dear Sir:—

Returning papers herewith. Arrangements have been perfected for trip by special car with extra diner for Miss Geraldine Potter during May, and will furnish the itinerary commencing May 6. The manager of the company will furnish the places where the company will play. Yours truly,

D. E. B.
Salt Lake, April 15th, 1904.

O. E. 401.

Dear Sir:—

I take great pleasure in stating that our company has perfected all arrangements for your trip by special car over the Pacific circuit. We will furnish your company with an exclusive Pullman and diner, the cars being of the latest build, the diner, especially being one from the limited equipment. It is understood that for the exclusive use your manager will have to pay at the rate of 18 full berth fares for the Pullman, and order meals to cost not less than \$2 each when in the diners, this three times a day or a total of \$72 per day.

Our Mr. H. E. D., who is an unusually well informed official, will personally conduct the party, and I can assure you and the members of the company every attention while on our lines. Yours truly,

T. M. S.
Ogden, April 25, 1904.

Mr. S. Dear Friend:—

Yours received. Am thousand times obliged for this kind act on your part. I am unable to make such long trip right away as have not any company yet. Have engagement here, doing vaudeville at Utah park and think best to stay while as need the weekly salary. Hoping I haven't put you to one bit of trouble but had forgotten that you had said your railroad would make arrangements I thought would want some weeks ago. Yours truly,

GERALDINE POTTER.
And yet they say that railroad men have an easy time.

John Sears--By Himself.



John S. Sears, the subject of the present sketch, was born in Utah. The exact spot is not known, but there is good reason to believe that it was somewhere in San Juan county. The rocks in that part of the country are covered with pictures of animals and birds. This work has long been ascribed to the cliff-dwellers or the Indians, but recent researches prove the calumny to be unwarranted. The stammered aborigines never did anything worse than offer human sacrifices and burn white people at the stake. The responsibility for cliff drawings should now be placed where it belongs—on Mr. Sears.

Old Maid's Theme of Professor's Discussion

BY RUDOLPH R. SCHULDER, JR.

"DON'T talk to me about old maids," exclaimed the Professor, with considerable warmth. "A woman in this age who is single from choice is deserving of the utmost respect instead of being ridiculed and calumniated. And let me tell you right now that the term 'old maid' is fast losing the stigma that has attached to it in the past. It is to the old maids, so called, that we must look in a large measure for the betterment of humanity. When more girls refuse to marry men that are not as good as themselves, and men when they can admire and respect, then will we have the betterment of the race have been well inaugurated."

Little did I think that any careless remark about certain old spinsters would stir up the Professor in this fashion. I have nothing in particular against the old girls myself, and my remark which the Professor had taken as derogatory was made without the least intention whatever of being disparaging. But from the Professor's manner I knew that I had grievously blundered and I also knew that I had thrown myself open for a good, round lecture. He continued:

"Women have always been far too dependent on man and too much emphasis has been placed upon their 'one mission' in life, that of keeping house and rearing a family. It is most refreshing to note that young women are awakening to a realization of this fact and I sincerely hope that they will put a few baby-carriage factories out of commission."

"The factory, the store, the office and the professions have opened the door to a greater freedom and with her increasing independence woman no longer considers matrimony and the perpetuation of the human species as the only object of her life. And it is true that her more active participation in the every day life of the world is making for better and purer social conditions."

This did not sound like good doctrine. It looked to me that if carried to its logical conclusion it would mean the depopulation of the country and I employed the Boomerangian expression in saying so to the Professor. "That race-suicide bugaboo seems to be troubling you unduly," he answered, "but listen to me, it is a big boomerang and if heeded, it will mean racial and moral suicide to the nation. It is quite true that by increasing the number of single persons in the country, through a decrease in marriages and an increase in divorces, the freedom of woman is bound to affect the birth rate. But a decreased birth rate and improved conditions are far better than a starving horde of degenerate humanity blaxing a trail of ruination ahead of the race and country."

"You have evidently heard the often repeated admonition given in this State urging young men to marry. It apparently makes no difference what the temperment of your wife be, whether compatible with your own or not, consideration whatever is given to sentiment, and still further, nothing is said about either your circumstances or

ability to raise a family, or the fitness of either yourself or of your wife to bring new lives into the world. Just get married and propagate, that seems to be the idea. Love is not considered a profound admiration and to live in affectionate companionship, the principal object of matrimony, nor is it even hinted that to be the object of a pure love one must be able to arouse and create it."

"No thought whatever seems to be given to the offspring of promiscuous intermarrying and children are born into the world with the curse of their parents' folly upon them to handicap them through their whole existence and lower the level of humanity. Far better that there be fewer people in the world and those few of a higher standard of morals and intellect. This is the work that the 'old maid' is accomplishing."

Endless Seat for the End-Sent Hog.

We commented the other day on the end-sent hog and advised the Boston Elevated to equip their summer cars with endless seats, which we believed and still believe would force this species of two-legged pork out of business.

Any person with an average amount of gumption can see that if the open cars were provided with seats which have no ends there would be no opportunity for the end-sent hog to establish a reputation. He would then have to take his chances with the other passengers. Nobody would have an end seat, and all this bull-balo which has been kicked up against the end-sent hog would cease.

We do not expect any remuneration from the Boston Elevated for this suggestion; we offer it free gratis for nothing, and if it is adopted we shall have our reward in the knowledge that we have done what little we could to help humanity. We offer this endless seat whatever it is worth. We have been trying to find some solution to the end-sent hog problem for some time, and we happened to think of the endless seat plan at a moment when we were not busy thinking of something else. Let us have endless seats.—Boston Post.

Proceedings of the Knockers' Club

BY MURRAY SCHICK.

THE Lawyer had been silently contemplating his feet, which rested on the card table, for fully an hour. The Professor came in, wiped the perspiration from his brow and sank into a large willow chair on the opposite side of the table.

"I am about to order a highball," he announced. "Shall I make it two? Methinks you have a pensive air."

"Say, Professor," said the Lawyer, explosively and malapropos, "is there anything in that theory of yours about morals that can be used on a jury? I've got the very devil of a criminal case on my hands. Not the shadow of legal defense and it just occurred to me that a fellow might do something with your theory of crime. You say, if I understand you correctly, that all the desires and impulses of men were bred into them at a time when such desires and impulses were needed to preserve the race and exist now because our environment changes faster than our hereditary tendencies?"

"A very good synopsis," commented the Professor. "Wait till I order those highballs and I will discuss the matter further."

The drinks were ordered and the Lawyer said: "What would be the just and equitable way of dealing with crime if your theory is accepted?"

"Nature's code of penalties," replied the Professor, "is very delicately adjusted according to the gravity of the offense against the law of survival. Nature recognizes innumerable degrees of crime and has a different punishment for each. If you eat too much dinner you suffer with an ache; if you get in swim when you are dry, you catch cold; the penalty is inflicted indirectly. If a man is wrong to B, C and D, then B, C and D suffer because they have placed themselves in the power of A. That is the way of nature."

"By inflicting suffering Nature shows B, C and D that it is their duty to protect themselves in the most effective way from the evil deeds of A." "And does Nature indicate the proper means of securing protection?" inquired the Lawyer.

"Negatively, yes, B, C and D take measures which they believe will restrain A. If A is not restrained thereby measures are ineffective. If he is only partially restrained the measures are defective. If he is wholly restrained the measures are complete. The persistence of crime proves that society has not yet learned how to protect itself."

In passing by the table toward the water cooler the Minister caught the last remark and grew interested. "You stop at the most important question raised by your theory," he observed. "Every so-called act of crime, how these detrimental hereditary impulses are to be suppressed, I understand that in the course of time this Nature that you talk about will weed out the unfit, but what is the scientific system of dealing with individuals?"

"By training the judgment to weigh and properly determine the good and evil consequences of a contemplated action." "That is not enough. Man is prone to evil as the sports fly upward." He continually does those things which his judgment tells him are wrong. It is the will that is at fault; not the judgment."

"I do not recognize the distinction between will and judgment," replied the Professor. "You don't?" was the astonished reply.

"No, I do not, although I am compelled to face many high authorities to the contrary. Every so-called act of crime will be an act of judgment. To do or not to do is the question, and we invariably follow the course which, according to the judgment of the moment, will give us the most satisfaction. One of the best examples is the drunkard. He has resolved to quit drinking. In going by a barroom he smells the liquor. A bottle begins in his mind. If he takes the drink he will have no money to buy a meal; he will suffer a painful reaction from the effect of the stimulant; he will despise himself. On the other hand, the drink will quiet his agitated nerves; it will give him a temporary exhilaration; it will cause him to forget the petty troubles that now oppress him. Each side of the controversy is weighed. The odor of whisky, acting on the olfactory organ and through it on the brain, adds to the force of the argument in favor of the drink. The judgment says: The present satisfaction to be derived from that drink

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